

*to min*

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST CENSORSHIP

### NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL.

Present: Ted Goodman (Chair), Basil Stein, Mark Taha, Mary Hayward.

1. Apologies for absence from Nigel Meek.
2. Chairman's Report.

Mr. Goodman apologised for the long gap between meetings but said that he had been quite busy with letter writing. He had written to the Director of Tate Modern concerning the photo of Brooke Shields as a girl which was removed from exhibition following a visit from the police. He had had a self-justificatory reply, but that was better than none.

And this government does at least pretend to be interested in what the electorate thinks.

3. Hon. Secretary's Report

Mrs. Hayward said that she was sorry that she had been out of action for so long. However her intestinal problems had now been diagnosed as something called irritable bowel syndrome, which is incurable but not dangerous. She now had a photocopier/scanner at home, which was very useful.

As an individual, rather than CAC, she had written to FAC, rejoined Liberty and written to the Libel Reform Campaign. An update of CAC's position statement on libel was needed.

She had registered the new signatories with HSBC, opened a new savings account and transferred half the legacy (£10K) to the new account, where it should earn some interest. She had made an appointment with Abbey/Santander about transferring CAC's savings account with them to a more up-to-date version.

She distributed copies of guidelines for contributors to the Newsletter which were approved at the last meeting. It would now go to Dr. Meek for publication in a future issue.

She distributed copies of the draft recruitment leaflet to replace the (very out of date) version in use. She asked that Council members return them to her shortly with any suggestions for changes.

Mrs. Hayward drew Council's attention to two press reports (Guardian 11<sup>th</sup> November). In one it was reported that a man snared by the Operation Ore child porn trawl was appealing against his conviction on the grounds that his credit card details had been stolen and used by someone else. Mr. Goodman explained that this is not laid down as a defence in the legislation but could be used in court. (A bit like an alibi.)

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In the other, a man had been arrested for "encouraging an act of terrorism" over a website listing the MPs who voted in favour of the invasion of Iraq. Mrs.Hayward pointed out that this information was published and available to anyone who could find their way around Hansard. She said that CAC needed to have a statement of position on the effects of anti-terrorism legislation on freedom of expression. Mr.Goodman said that the present government had pledged to repeal some terrorism legislation. Agreed Mr.Goodman to look up and list the relevant sections and Mrs.Hayward to write to

Nick Clegg asking him to honour the pledge. Mr.Goodman said the letter should be sent after Christmas, and after that something could go into the newsletter.

#### 4. Publications Officer's Report

Dr.Meek was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a written report as follows: "The Editor, Dr. Meek, reports by post that a new issue of CAC's newsletter was published in September 2010. Copies of this were also distributed at the annual conference of the Libertarian Alliance held in London in October 2010. Dr. Meek also reports that, despite lack of public activity, the CAC's website continues to receive 600 or more hits per month and that dozens of copies of past newsletters and position papers are also being downloaded each month."

#### 5. Members' Reports

Mr.Taha reported that he had attended the SFC Annual Awards in May 2010. He continues to collect press cuttings for CAC and have letters published.

Mr.Stein continues to monitor relevant radio and tv broadcasts when possible. He was concerned at the reactionary attitudes of contributors to BBC's Question Time and said that Vanessa Feltz was pro-censorship on a radio phone-in programme.

#### 6. Law Reform Submission

Mrs.Hayward had sent the draft Bill with a covering letter. The reply appeared to be friendly but was certainly a form letter and addressed to "Ms.Hayward", not CAC. Mr.Goodman thought this was no problem but Mr.Stein suggested incompetence and Mrs.Hayward thought it was insulting (to CAC, not her).

#### 7. Future Activities

Agreed that the next newsletter, probably in the new year, should include the draft Bill.

Agreed there should be a General Meeting next year.

#### 8. Other Business

Mr.Taha and/or Mr.Stein to attend a pro-censorship meeting and report back.

Mrs.Hayward said that since the Campaign can now afford it, she might claim expenses for some items, eg printer cartridges.

Noted that the Council can raise the subscription rates without going to a general meeting.

Mr.Goodman wished to apply to a grant-making trust for funds to finance paid office help and would research to see what was available. Mrs.Hayward opposed the idea because 1) the Campaign is not a charity and most grants are for bodies that are, 2) the Campaign should make an effort to raise money for itself before asking other organisations (eg start using the new leaflet and raise the subs.) and 3) a failed application now would remain on file and spoil any applications in the future.

#### 9. Next Meeting

Mrs.Hayward to ask Council members which dates they can/can't do in January and February.

# Annex to minutes Nov. 2010

May 2010

Cac minutes

Arrived 12ish-drizzle

NORM UK-Charity helps those harmed by circumcision  
Have details with this

Dr Anthony Lempert, Secular Medical Forum -equality in health care provision, irrespective of religion-  
obsessive controlling influence of religion re sex and genitalia -homosexuality, contraception,  
abortion, circumcision- challenging pharmacists' right to refuse morning after pill-doctors who  
mislead re abortion -sex and relationship education- religious schools' views of sex-children need  
education, help-laws on female circumcision-1985, 2003 Circumcision Acts-no convictions-misplaced  
deference to religion and cultural values-GMC failing to make patient care first concern-"what about  
influence of Chief Rabbi?"-always put patients' interests first-Secular Medical Forum website-no plans  
to change advice at forum-free everyone from religion impositions[paraphrase]

Genital Autonomy -new charity being set up by NORM UK

Sir Guy Masterleigh- recalled lack of censorship in 70s-insidious effect of censorship-customers want  
stuff beyond-going to lose if even accused of breaking Obscene Publications Act-Video Recordings  
Act only kept hard core off high street-destroyed domestic erotica trade-only exploitative male  
dominant available-"erodiversity"-Sir Guy best known for "human pony play" and wife running Muir  
Academy

Gordon Stent from CAAN-tribute to Clair Lewis-very brave.own health issues-bit upset-sidelined-in  
wheelchair-copy of Clair's speech here-hundreds of thousands criminalised under new laws-  
information made more difficult for him to get-someone facing possible prison sentence for possessing  
film clip sent as joke

Backlash UK Website

Jane Fae/John Ozimek -transsexual -have to "lose" past to be taken seriously-"loss of power" as  
result of change from man -no abuse as male

Freud "heteronormativity"-reply to "normal"-we're consenting adults, none of your business

Teacher banned for being dominatrix in spare time -extreme porn law "busted flush"-Vetting act-  
"might be harmful to children"

Miss Prim's Academy-many sign up to make sense of abuse as child-Sir Guy: "most  
physical, sexual/psychological abuse in name of religion"

Taha Report of SFC Meeting